

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /133 W
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R 271050Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2553

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0243

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS AO

SUBJECT: LUANDA RECOGNIZES JUNTA'S AUTHORITY BUT LEADERSHIP
UNCERTAIN

SUMMARY: BOTH HIGH COMMAND AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HAVE
FINALLY RECOGNIZED AUTHORITY OF LISBON JUNTA. ACTING CINC
INSTRUCTED TO DISMISS GOVGEN IMMEDIATELY LATE APRIL 26; LATTER
HAS ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO REMAIN IN POWER UNTIL NOON
TODAY. SECGEN TO SUCCEED HIM ON INTERIM BASIS. GOVGEN'S FUTURE,
ETD UNKNOWN. SECGEN'S APPOINTMENT MAY NOT SOLVE PROBLEM OF WHO
IS IN CHARGE HERE. END SUMMARY

1. AFTERNOON AND EVENING APRIL 26 PRODUCED SERIES OF PUZZLING
STATEMENTS BY OR ATTRIBUTED TO GOVGEN SANTOS E CASTRO AND
ACTING CINC ALVES. AFTERNOON DAILY DIARIO DE LUANDA (PREVIOUSLY
MOUTHPIECE OF REGIME) QUOTED ALVES AS ANNOUNCING "POLITICAL
POWER CONTINUES IN SANTOS E CASTRO'S HANDS." AT 2000 BOTH GOVGEN
AND CINC ISSUED COMMUNIQUE. FORMER SAID IN ABSENCE OF ANY
INSTRUCTIONS FROM LISBON HE REMAINED IN FULL CHARGE OF GOVERNMENT
AND OF ANGOLA. CINC, WITHOUT REFERRING AT ALL TO JUNTA'S
EXISTENCE BUT NOTING PRESS REPORTS ABOUT UNSPECIFIED "EVENTS" IN
LISBON SAID MILITARY'S TASK WAS TO CONTINUE ITS ASSIGNED
DUTIES "IN ACCORDANCE WITH DIRECTIVES OF HIGHER AUTHORITY" (SIC).

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NO MENTION OF DIARIO REPORT.

2. TODAY'S MEDIA REPORT THAT AT 2330 HOURS APRIL 26 CINC RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM JUNTA TO DISMISS GOVGEN AT ONCE, AND TO ASSIGN HIS FUNCTIONS TO SECGEN SOARES CARNEIRO ON INTERIM BASIS. CINC THEREUPON ISSUED COMMUNIQUE TO THIS EFFECT, PLUS BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT HIGH COMMAND ANGOLA "RECOGNIZES JUNTA'S AUTHORITY". IN SEPARATE COMMUNIQUE ALVES SAID DIARIO DE LUANDA REPORT UNTRUE.

3. FOR HIS PART, GOVGEN AT 2350 ANNOUNCED THAT HAVING RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM JUNTA (NO MENTION OF CINC'S ROLE AS INTERMEDIARY) HE WOULD TURN GOVERNMENT OVER TO SECGEN TODAY AT NOON.

4. COMMENT: AS OF 1100 TODAY GOVGEN STILL IN CHARGE AT PALACE WITH SECGEN PRESUMABLY IN ATTENDANCE. SITUATION ON GOVERNMENT HILL NORMAL TO ALL APPEARANCES. IT SEEMS EVIDENT ALVES AND OTHER GENERAL OFFICERS UNDER HIS COMMAND DEFERRED TO GOVGEN DURING APRIL 26; AND WILLING TO ACQUIESCE IN HIS LAST DITCH SHOW OF INDEPENDENCE OF JUNTA IN 12 HOUR DELAY IN CARRYING OUT ALVES' ORDERS. GOVGEN'S OFFICE OPERATING NORMALLY; STAFF UNABLE TO SAY WHEN OR IF HE WILL DEPART ANGOLA OR WHAT FUTURE PLANS ARE.

5. APPOINTMENT OF SECGEN TO HEAD GOVERNMENT TEMPORARILY DOES NOT NECESSARILY SETTLE PROBLEM OF WHO IS IN CHARGE HERE. HE IS KNOWN AS ENERGETIC INDIVIDUAL, GOOD ADMINISTRATOR BUT LACKING IN POLITICAL SUBTLETY. SECGEN HAS APPEARED TO US FULLY TO SHARE SANTOS E CASTRO'S CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL OUTLOOK AND VIEWS RE OVERSEAS WHICH CONTRARY TO JUNTA'S. BECAUSE OF HIS POSITION HE IS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH NON-MILITARY SECURITY APARATUS, INCLUDING DGS WHICH REMAINS INTACT AND APPEARS TO BE FUNCTIONING NORMALLY (BOTH SAO JOSE LOPES AND LOCAL DIRECTOR ALVARVA REPORTEDLY ARE OUTSIDE ANGOLA). AT SAME TIME SEARES CARNEIRO IS RELATIVELY JUNIOR ARMY OFFICER (ONLY RECENTLY PROMOTED TO LTCOL) AND THEREFORE THEORITICALLY SHOULD BE AMENABLE TO DIRECTION FROM HIGHER MILITARY AUTHORITY. ALVES CANNOT BE CONSIDERED IN THAT ROLE. HE IS STONE DEAF, AGING, AND GENERALLY INCOMPETENT. QUESTION OF WHO IS REALLY IN CHARGE HERE WILL PROBABLY REMAIN UNRESOLVED UNTIL SECGEN PROVES HIMSELF MORE CAPABLE THAN NOW SEEMS LIKELY, OR JUNTA APPOINTS ITS OWN MEN
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TO CINC AND GOVGEN JOBS.
BRIGGS

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NNN

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